

Title X Family Planning Program, grants from the Centers for Disease Control for community projects, and the Adolescent and Family Life Act which provides a small grant that goes toward care and parenting for adolescent mothers and abstinence only education. These programs help, but they are clearly not enough.

Although federal attention and involvement is important, we must become local leaders on this issue. Teen pregnancy is a national problem, but its solutions are local. We must go into our districts to see what works and encourage community involvement.

There is not magic bullet. I have worked with Congresswoman EVA CLAYTON on this issue, and I can tell you that what works in her district in North Carolina is not what works in Montgomery County, Maryland.

I have met with Elayne Bennett, founder of the Best Friends program, and several of her students. I must be honest; I was very skeptical of abstinence-only prevention efforts. Her results in my district, however, have been amazing. The Best Friends program is not a quick fix. It works because mentors make a long-term investment in junior high and high school girls, taking them on outings, teaching them new skills, and going to weekly classes with them. It won't work for everyone, but it is one of many approaches making a dent in this critical problem.

Maryland's teen pregnancy rate ranks 13th nationally. There are 118 pregnancies annually per 1,000 women aged 15–19 in Maryland; 43% result in live births and 29% result in abortions. The State of Maryland is making progress in reducing the number of pregnant teenagers through the Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy. As part of their ongoing media campaign, they have developed a new series of ads focusing on parent-child communication as a means to prevent teen pregnancy, and they are holding a contest for teens to create teen pregnancy prevention slogans.

I will continue to encourage my colleagues in Congress to make reducing teen pregnancy a priority by going back to their districts and encouraging community leaders, religious leaders, parents, business, the media, and local leaders to figure out what works. This is only the beginning of a dialogue between the Congress, the media, policy experts, state and local governments, and educators. It's time that we figure out what works in order to make a difference.

#### NATIONAL MARITIME DAY 1998

#### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on this special day, National Maritime Day, it is fitting that we recognize and honor those men and women who have served our country by transporting our Nation's cargoes in times of peace and prosperity and in times of war and grave danger. The service of merchant mariners to our Nation includes the heroic effort put forth during World War II by the thousands of young men who volunteered for service in the United States Merchant Marine. Many of these merchant mariners were recruited specifically to staff ships under the control and direction of

the United States government to assist the World War II effort. These seamen were subject to government control, their vessels were controlled by the government under the authority of the War Shipping Administration and, like branches of military service, they traveled under sealed orders and were subject to the Code of Military Justice.

Some volunteers joined the Merchant Marines because minor physical problems, such as poor eyesight, made them ineligible for service in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps. Others were encouraged by military recruiters to volunteer for service in the Merchant Marines because the recruiter recognized that the special skills offered by the volunteer could best be put to use for our country by service in the Merchant Marines. Most importantly, all were motivated by their deep love of country and personal sense of patriotism to contribute to the war effort.

In order to staff our growing merchant fleet during World War II, the U.S. Marine Commission established training camps around the country under the direct supervision of the Coast Guard. After completing basic training, which included both small arms and cannon proficiency, seamen became active members of the U.S. Merchant Marine. These seamen, often at great personal risk, helped deliver troops and war supplies needed for every Allied invasion site from Guadalcanal to Omaha Beach.

More than 6,500 merchant mariners who served our country during World War II gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives, including 37 who died as prisoners of war, and almost 5,000 World War II Merchant Mariners remain officially missing and are presumed dead. In addition, 733 U.S. Merchant ships were destroyed. Even after the surrender of Japan, members of our Merchant Marine fleet were in mortal danger as they continued to support the war effort by entering mined harbors to transport our troops safely home. After the war ended, they carried food and medicine to millions of the world's starving people.

In spite of the illustrious service of the World War II merchant mariners, then-Secretary of the Air Force, Edward Aldridge, inexplicably made the decision in 1988 to define the dates for World War II service differently for merchant mariners than for those who served in the other American forces. The effect of this decision was to deny veteran status to those merchant mariners who served between the dates of August 15, 1945 and December 31, 1946, the official end of World War II. H.R. 1126, the Merchant Mariner Fairness Act, which has wide bipartisan support from over one-half of the Members of the House, will correct this erroneous administrative decision by making the service eligibility period for World War II merchant mariners identical to that established for others.

It is important to remember that during the time period addressed by this bill, August 15, 1945 through December 31, 1946, 12 U.S. Flag Merchant Vessels were lost or damaged as a result of striking mines, and some of the merchant mariners serving on these vessels were killed or injured. Fully understanding the tremendous risks they faced, merchant mariners, nonetheless, willingly went into mined harbors so that they could bring our American troops home to their families and friends. I believe these courageous merchant mariners, who were subject to the risk and dangers of

war between V-J Day and the official end of the war, have been wrongfully denied veteran status. They faced the very real hazards of war-time hostile actions and should not be denied the status of veteran for purposes of laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs because their sea-going contributions began after August 15, 1945. H.R. 1126 will correct this injustice.

It has been more than a half century since the end of World War II. How much longer must these aging merchant mariners, who are forgotten patriots of World War II, wait for their service to our Nation to be properly and fully honored and acknowledged? H.R. 1126 will finally provide appropriate recognition: veteran status for a few thousand World War II American merchant mariners. While this status will enable them to be eligible for veterans' benefits, it is likely that the only benefit most will receive is proper recognition of their contribution to the war effort and the right to a veteran's funeral. The merchant mariners who would be granted veteran status by this bill are aging. They will not qualify for educational benefits. As Medicare beneficiaries, most already have longstanding relationship with their medical providers and are unlikely to seek VA health care. Nonetheless, the merchant mariners of World War II will receive the long-overdue thanks from the Nation they served faithfully and courageously.

I encourage those Members who have not already cosponsored the Merchant Mariners Fairness Act to celebrate National Maritime Day by joining Members on both sides of the aisle as a cosponsor of this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ARTHUR J.  
NAPARSTEK

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of a distinguished scholar and civic activist, Dr. Arthur J. Naparstek. On Saturday, May 30, 1998, Dr. Naparstek will be joined by his family and friends to celebrate his 60th birthday. It gives me great pleasure to wish my dear friend, Arthur, a very happy birthday.

Dr. Arthur J. Naparstek is a nationally recognized authority and leading theorist on community change and community organization. Since 1962 he has been extremely dedicated to improving the lives of those less fortunate by teaching others how to develop neighborhood strategies and coalitions to build stronger communities.

Since 1983, Dr. Naparstek has been the Coyle Professor of Social Work at the School for Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland where he served as Dean for nearly a decade. As Director of the Cleveland Foundation Commission on Poverty from 1990 to 1993, Dr. Naparstek initiated the drafting of the commission's report which served as the basis for HUD's \$2.6 billion Urban Revitalization Demonstration Act (HOPE VI). In July 1994, in recognition of his service to combat inner city poverty, President Clinton appointed Dr. Naparstek to the Board of Trustees of the Corporation for National

Service. Throughout his career, he has been an innovator, a reformer, a new idea creator. His pathbreaking research and testimony before Congress helped lead to passage of significant national legislation including: The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, The Community Revitalization Act, and the National Neighborhood Commission. His writings are prolific and span a wide range of subject areas: Rethinking Poverty Through a Community-Building Approach Initiative; Neighborhood Networks for Humane Mental Health Care; and Community Building: New Strategies for Community Development.

Arthur's unmatched commitment to community service is an example of a true American patriot as he remains extremely active in both the public and private sector. He has directed the Cleveland Foundation Commission on Poverty, worked with the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs, the Rockefeller Foundation, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the White House Conference on Neighborhoods and many other civic organizations. Dr. Naparstek is also the author of numerous reports, articles, and books that address the importance of community building and development.

Dr. Arthur Naparstek earned his doctorate from Brandeis University and his Master's Degree from New York University. He received his undergraduate degree from Illinois Wesleyan University. Dr. Naparstek is married to Belleruth, and they are the proud parents of Aaron, Keila, and Abram.

Americans all across this country should tip their hats to Dr. Naparstek, a lifelong prophet empowering people in our urban corridors to overcome poverty and hopelessness.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to wish Dr. Arthur Naparstek—a rare and gifted talent—a very happy birthday. Mazel tov.

#### HONORING JAMES LINCOLN OF TECUMSEH

#### HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to one of my constituents who was recently honored by the Tecumseh Area Chamber of Commerce in Tecumseh, Michigan.

James Lincoln is a local newspaper owner who for 40 years has published the Tecumseh Herald, one of our leading area papers. In addition to that, Mr. Lincoln has forged an impressive record of public service and civic involvement. For his longstanding contributions to the Tecumseh area, his peers have rightly honored him as the winner of the annual Musgrove Evans Award, named after Tecumseh's founding father.

It is gratifying that the Tecumseh Chamber of Commerce has dedicated time and commitment to recognizing those people who make such valuable contributions to our community. And even more inspiring are the many good works performed by area leaders such as James Lincoln.

As the Chamber knows, a healthy economic climate is not the sole characteristic that makes a community worthwhile. While we can

do much to create a climate that brings jobs, builds roads, lowers taxes, and eliminates deficits, the most important deficit we as a nation and a community must continually confront is a deficit of values and character.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I enjoy taking the opportunity to tell my colleagues about those people who demonstrate the true meaning of community service in my district in Michigan. So many people talk about the need to get involved and pitch in when they see a problem, but James Lincoln is one person who takes action.

Mr. Lincoln is not only a fine publisher, but he has used his paper to reach out and make a difference in the community. He has turned his paper into a community watchdog, a civic leader, and a valuable, respected voice for Tecumseh area residents. He has contributed greatly to organizations such as the Rotary Club, the Tecumseh Chamber and his local church.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I extend my congratulations and appreciation to James C. Lincoln.

#### IN HONOR OF ST. IRENE CHRYSOVALANTOU

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a historic event that started to heal a schism that began 27 years ago and divided the Greek Orthodox Church in America from the Orthodox Church elsewhere in the world.

The dispute related to a 13-day discrepancy between the Gregorian calendar and the old Julian calendar to which Orthodox traditionalists adhere. The reconciliation, approved by the Synod in Constantinople on April 7, was simple. Neither group would have to give up its calendar but the Old Calendrists of churches such as St. Irene Chrysovalantou would be accepted under the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

St. Irene Chrysovalantou was named a patriarchal monastery as a result of this agreement. Its Old Calendrist clergy were re-ordained last month. The sacraments that they had celebrated, as well as the countless weddings and baptisms, were deemed retroactively proper.

Archbishop Spyridon, who endorsed the plan, led a moving ceremony celebrating the event on May 3, 1998. He was joined by the founders of St. Irene, His Excellency Metropolitan Pasisios of Tyana, Abbot of the Monastery and Bishop Vikentios of Apameia. Amid the airs of a brass band, the ringing of church bells, sonorous Byzantine incantations, and the jubilant salutes of a thousand faithful, the community turned out in strength to rejoice over this historic reconciliation.

To further commemorate the reconciliation, on May 23, 1998, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch, will visit the Sacred and Patriarchal Monastery of St. Irene Chrysovalantou.

Since this is the first time that His All Holiness will visit Astoria, his visit is eagerly anticipated. This historic event will be celebrated by

thousands of faithful who will come to welcome him and to attend the Patriarchal Great Vespers.

Mr. Speaker, these events in Astoria mark the beginning of a healing process that I hope will reunite a people long divided. This reconciliation should give hope to others living amid conflict.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REPEAL THE FAMILY INFLATION TAX

#### HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I will introduce legislation today to repeal the family inflation tax. The \$500 per child credit enacted in last year's Taxpayer Relief Act will provide vital tax relief to millions of American families. Its execution, however, has been flawed from the beginning.

We were able to defeat the initial proposals to require families with incomes of less than \$50,000 to reduce their \$500 per child credits by 50 percent of their day care credit, to cap the dependent care credit, and to deny the credit to families who receive the Earned Income Tax Credit. We tried but were unable to allow the credit against the individual Alternative Minimum Tax. As a result millions of families will be thrown into the individual Alternative Minimum Tax simply for claiming the child credit. I subsequently introduced H.R. 2524 to remedy this. However, this flaw beats them all.

Did you know that some families, after receiving the initial benefit, will actually have their taxes increase in the future because of complicated efforts to reduce the benefits of the \$500 child credit. Yes, that is correct. Over time, a number of families will see future tax increases even if their income does not change!

This happens because of the interaction of three provisions, the partially refundable family credit, the reduction of the partially refundable family credit by minimum tax liability, and the inflation adjustments to the regular tax. For some families paying the minimum tax, the inflation adjustments cause tax increases by increasing minimum tax liability and thereby reducing partially refundable credits.

So each year, the inflation adjustment of the standard deduction and personal exemptions—a provision that results in tax savings for the majority of taxpayers, actually results in a tax increase for these families. We must not allow this to happen. That is why today I am introducing legislation to correct this.

On a related note, there is a tremendous amount of bipartisan support for fixing the marriage penalty. One of the most popular proposals would increase the standard deduction for married couples, a proposal that would actually make this problem worse. I have been talking about the need to fix the marriage penalty for years. We should fix it but we should also include this fix so we don't increase taxes on families in the name of eliminating a penalty.

Please join me in repealing the Family Inflation Tax.